The Mouthpiece







Culham's Newsletter

December 2015/January 2016

For your diary				
December				
3rd	Ladies of Culham Christmas wreath making	St Paul's Church	19:00	
10th	Mobile Library	Culham Science Centre Nursery & Pre-school	3.30 to 3.50 pm	
12th	Seniors' Christmas Party	The Railway Inn	2 to 6 pm	
13th	Family Communion	St. Paul's Church	10.00 am	
14th	Parish Council Meeting	The School	7.30 pm	
24th	Mobile Library	Culham Science Centre Nursery & Pre-school	3.30 to 3.50 pm	
20th	Carol Service	St. Paul's Church	6.00 pm	
25th	Christmas day Family Communion	St. Paul's Church	10.00 am	
January				
7th	Mobile Library	Culham Science Centre Nursery & Pre-school	3.30 to 3.50 pm	
10th	Family Communion	StPaul's Church	10.00 am	
17th	Evening Prayer	St Paul's Church	6.00 pm	
21st	Mobile Library	Culham Science Centre Nursery & Pre-school	3.30 to 3.50 pm	

CHURCH SERVICES IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

DATE	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE			
SERVICES AT CULHAM December						
Sunday 13th Sunday 20th Christmas Day January	10 am 6 pm 10 am	Culham Culham Culham	Family Communion Carol Service Family Communion			
Sunday 10th Sunday 17th	10 am 6 pm	Culham Culham	Family Communion Evening Prayer			

Join us for coffee and a chat after Sunday morning services at Culham Church! All welcome

Decembe	SERVICES ELSEWHERE			
Decembe	Sunday 6th	8 am 10 am	Clifton Hampden Long Wittenham	Holy Communion Family Service
	Sunday 13th	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	Sunday 20th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	Christmas Eve	5.30 pm 7 pm 11.30 pm	Long Wittenham Little Wittenham Clifton Hampden	Carol Service Carol Service Midnight Service
	Christmas Day	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	Sunday 27th	10.30 am	Dorchester Abbey	Team Service
January	Sunday 3rd	8 am 10 am	Clifton Hampden Long Wittenham	Holy Communion Family Service
	Sunday 10th	11 am tbc	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	Sunday 17th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	Sunday 24th	8.30 am 10 am 10 am	Little Wittenham Clifton Hampden Long Wittenham	Holy Communion Family Communion Holy Communion
	Sunday 31st	10.30 am	Warborough	Team Service

From David Haylett, Associate vicar

By the time you read this we will have said "Farewell" to Revd Anne Ilsley who has retired and moved to Wiltshire and will be spending several months in early 2016 in Australia and New Zealand visiting friends and relations. One of the benefits of being in a Team Ministry is that we have a pool of clergy who work together and Anne's departure means that others can provide cover so that I do not have to do the impossible and hold two 10am services in different churches! It also means that the present pattern of services in all four churches that Anne and I routinely serve can continue unaltered.



We have made one or two changes to the timings of the Christmas Carol Services this year, partly because, as your "resident priest" I wanted to be able to attend at least one service in all four churches in the Group over the Christmas period and share in the celebrations.

Until a new "House for Duty" priest is appointed please do not hesitate to contact either me, or Revd Canon Sue Booys (01865 340007), Team Rector and legally Incumbent of these parishes, to arrange Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals.

Is it my imagination, or has "Christmas" not arrived as early as it has done (commercially) in recent years? Maybe I have not been as alert to my surroundings this year, but I seem to have not come across that many Christmas trees, decorations, or advertisements urging me to part with my money until very recently. Traditionally Christmas began on Christmas Eve and then lasted for the "Twelve Days of Christmas" to Epiphany in January. By the time you read this it will be December so I guess that by then "Commercial Christmas" will be well under way.

Perhaps under all the tinsel and other trappings we will see the birth of a helpless baby, a baby destined to turn lives upside down and spread a message of hope to a (still) war-torn world. See God's only Son coming to live on earth and experience not only the joys of being human, but also the pains, the trials and the anguish too.

"Come and behold him born the King of Angels O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!".

A very Happy and Blessed Christmas to everyone.

Open Meeting re new vicar

There will be a meeting on Tuesday 19th January at 7.30pm (venue to be confirmed) to help decide what we, the community, hope for/ expect from a new vicar. If you would like more information or are interested in attending please contact Andrew Churchill Stone 01235 533011, a.churchill.stone@mybroadbandmail.com

New Sponsors

A big thank you to Robinsons Relocation of Nuffied Way, Abingdon for offering to sponsor the Mouthpiece for the next 10 editions by printing it for us.



Village News

The Village Web site is at: www.culhamvillage.org.uk

CULHAM CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE - ANDREW CHURCHILL STONE

The Culham Christmas Carol Service will be on Sunday 20th December at 6.00pm. As in previous years, a choir will be formed to help lead the singing and sing one or two 'choir only' carols. There will be a rehearsal on Sunday 20th December before the service at 4.30pm. If anyone is interested in joining this choir and has not already contacted me, please let me know on 01235 533011 or by email a.churchill.stone@mybroadbandmail.com

CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE RAILWAY INN - PAULINE DAVIDSON

To be held on Saturday 12th December. Please see end pages for details and application form.

CULHAM PRE-SCHOOL - SIAN HARRIS

The Pre-school is opening on 4th January 2016! Open days on 14th, 15th and 16th December. Call Sian on 07549677221 or contact sian.harris@bizkidz.club



Vacancy

Working with children is a privilege!

Bizkidz Pre-School in Culham is looking for an enthusiastic, committed and caring Early Years Childcare Practitioner. We are a startup Pre School and have the following hours available: 7:45am-12:30 Monday-Friday, Term Time Only, £9.00per hour qualification dependent.

Ideally you will have a Level 3 or 2 childcare qualification, experience of facilitating changing environments for children, the EYFS & play work principles.

Understanding of safeguarding procedures and a positive attitude are essential.

For more information, an application form or an informal chat, please contact <u>Sian.harris@bizkidz.club</u> This position is subject to an enhanced DBS check. Bizkidz Club Limited are committed to safer recruitment procedures.

THE POTTERY, 8 THE GREEN, CULHAM, ABINGDON, OX14 4LZ

The Pottery will be open to visitors on: Friday 4 and 11 December Saturday 5 and 12 December from 11am to 4pm



Come and browse! Have some mulled apple juice (from our own apples) and pepernoten (Dutch St Nicholas biscuits). I will be working on the wheel but will enjoy a break when visitors appear.

Hope to see you! Charlotte www.charlottestorrs-stoneware.co.uk

LADIES OF CULHAM

Ladies of Culham (otherwise known as L.O.C) is an opportunity for women in the village to meet on a regular basis (usually monthly) to learn new skills, discuss interesting topics, and most importantly socialise together. Throughout 2015 we have had a variety of activities that, amongst others, have included a pizza making evening using an outdoor oven, a summer walk along the Thames, a book club discussion, life drawing class, pumpkin carving, and learning to home compost. LOC is a small friendly welcoming group which would benefit from having as many ladies from the village there as possible. If you are interested in coming along then please contact me and I will make sure you are on the email list for details of upcoming activities (mary@therickfords.com)

This month there will be a Christmas wreath making activity held at the church. If you would like to join us then come along on Thursday 3rd December 7pm. There will not be a formal demonstration on how to make a wreath, but there will be plenty of experts on hand to help if you need it!! Please bring along a wreath making ring (can be purchased at most Florists), florist tape, string or wire as well as any decorations you would like to go on the wreath i.e. dried fruits/ fur cones/ ribbons or bells etc ... Please can you also bring any green foliage / berries from your garden. This can then be put on a central table to be shared. The wreath making activity will be a lovely way to kick start the Christmas season here in the village and I hope that you can come along. Please as always feel free to invite friends and neighbours!

CULHAM PARISH COUNCIL (CPC) NOTES - NOVEMBER 2015

Various overgrown trees in the village have been reported but no action has been taken yet.

The Clerk will check the price of the piece of replacement play equipment that has been chosen for the playing field.

The local PCSOs will be asked to attend the next PC meeting to discuss parking and speeding.

The cost of reproducing the names on the existing memorial will be investigated before sourcing a new memorial stone. A working group will then visit the local stone mason to view potential items.

The next step in the Community Led Plan is to consider the production of a Neighbourhood Plan which will take much more effort. The implications of this are being considered. (If any villager would like to be involved in pursuing this please contact any Councillor or the Clerk).

There is a meeting on the evening of Wednesday 11 November to discuss the Community Building. (Post meeting note - a working group was formed at the meeting).

A donation of £100 was agreed for the village Christmas tree and £100 donation to the Royal British Legion.

Next meeting

Monday 14th December 2015 at 19:30 at the school.

As ever all villagers are welcome to attend - please come along even if you have no specific items to present/discuss.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT (NOVEMBER) - CLLR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE

Budget Consultation

OCC has launched a public consultation on options for saving money. It has already saved or has firm plans to save nearly £300m since 2010 but believes it needs to find another £50m of savings over the next four years. The government is reducing public spending to tackle the national budget deficit, which means we have to make yet more difficult decisions about council services.

As well as receiving less money from government, the council faces rising demand for services – particularly for vulnerable adults and children at risk of abuse and neglect. About half OCC's budget is spent on 2% of the population of Oxfordshire, and that proportion is set to rise to as a result of a growing ageing population. The council has consulted the public before taking the decisions and delivering a balanced budget on 16th February 2016. Talking Oxfordshire, the council's budget consultation, started on 20 October, when all the savings options were published on the council's website. It closed on 30 November.

Children's Centre and Early Intervention Changes

OCC is also asking for views on its proposal to adopt a new model of children's services in Oxfordshire for children aged 0-19 to save £8 million from the budget by 2016-17. The proposal is to create a brand new service for families and their children aged 0-19 years old, or up to 25 if the child has additional needs. The consultation runs until 23:59 on 10 January 2016.

OCC would open up to eight new Children and Family Centres across Oxfordshire. These centres would support children and their families who need help and will integrate the work of the Children's Centres, the Early Intervention Hubs and Children's Social Care. As well as the new Children and Family Centres OCC would also provide an outreach service so children and families can be supported close to where they live.

Furthermore, OCC would work with schools, health and other services to ensure that children and families get the help that they need.

As part of the consultation process OCC would like to identify any potential impact of this proposal. OCC would also like to identify options for the future use of the Children's Centres and Early Intervention Hub buildings. Options about how universal services could continue to be run without financial support from OCC are also to be considered. Hard copies of the consultation are available at all children's centres and early intervention hubs.

Oxfordshire Together - Successful launch event for Parish Councils

As referred to above, OCC is looking at alternative ways in which it can deliver a number of different public services, across a wide range of areas. The way public services are delivered will shift towards enabling people and communities to take ownership of local priorities. OCC will continue to provide community leadership and foster partnership working, but the days when the council could deliver all services to all people have gone. OCC has started talking to town and parish councils to identify opportunities to work together. An initial engagement event for town and parish councils took place on 21st September. OCC's vision for working together is outlined in Oxfordshire Together – the Model booklet, with further details on some of the initial services in scope included in the Transitional Offer of Highway Services booklet. Both can be found at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshiretogether. The programme timetable is:

September – December
□ Initial discussion with town and parish councils.
☐ Engagement with town and parish councils interested in taking on delivery of some services to develop
agreements
January - April 2016
☐ Implementation of the first 'tranche' of agreements
April 2016 onwards
Review viability of approach and consider further roll out.

Better Broadband for Oxfordshire - Update

OCC is on track to achieve the target – agreed back in 2013 – of connecting 64,500 homes and businesses with superfast broadband by the end of 2015. By the end of August OCC had enabled over 56,000 premises to be connected to superfast (24mbps) broadband, and expects to reach the goal of 64,500 premises by the end of the year, on time and within budget.

Free Wi-fi in libraries

OCC has been awarded more than £86,000 by Arts Council England for Wi-Fi to be installed in the 28 Oxfordshire libraries that currently do not have it (it is already installed in 15 of the county's 43 libraries). The WiFi fund supports the Arts Council's goals around developing library services, ensuring that they are fit for purpose now and in the future. This is one-off grant. It is not a substitute for money that may be saved from the Library Service's budgets as part of the council's 2016-20 budget savings options. Installation will take place during Spring 2016.

All 43 libraries to stay open and become OCC's front door

In addition to the welcome installation of Wi-Fi across the county, the Library Service will now undertake a service restructure merging with Customer Services in order that the public will be able to access a whole range of government services on line, making the libraries the Council's front door. This restructure will contribute towards the Council's overall savings target and the £1m out £7m budget that the Libraries

must find. Further savings are proposed through the mobile library service being withdrawn but in mitigation the Home Library Service will be increased for people who are isolated and housebound. The Service has been so successful in attracting volunteers to help run the Community Libraries it is hoped that many more friends, relations and neighbours will come forward to help take books to the people they know locally who enjoy a good read and some extra company.

Minerals and local waste plan: Part 1 Core Strategy (from October report)

The public consultation into the Core Strategy has closed. Our local action groups – PAGE and BACHPORT have submitted strong objections to the Plan on the grounds that it is unsound and not legally compliant. I support these views and have taken every opportunity available to me to challenge the plan at County Hall: as a member of the Cabinet Advisory Group, at our Cabinet meeting in November 2014, and at full Council on 24th March 2015 when I supported an amendment bringing these failures to the attention of all County Councillors. Sadly, we lost by only three votes. The Plan now proceeds to Public Inquiry. We will have to wait and see what the government Inspector decides.

BACHPORT (VOLUNTEER CAMPAIGN GROUP): GRAVEL UPDATE AUTUMN 2015

Planning Application Imminent

The threat of a massive gravel pit between the villages of Clifton Hampden and Burcot, Long Wittenham, Appleford and Culham is now much closer. Hills Quarry Products have confirmed they will submit a planning application early in the New Year. They will write to our Parish Councils soon and plan to hold a public exhibition in November. This is an unwelcome development that will have a significant impact on all the surrounding villages.

Key to getting this planning application rejected is a strong evidence based case backed up with strong community support. Fortunately, we have both. A lot of preparatory work has been done and professional advisors retained in key subject areas. Bachport is well organised, backed by all the Parish Councils and has nearly 700 registered supporters (quite a significant proportion of the population of the 4 surrounding villages).

We will share details of our case over the coming months and we shall be asking you for help. Please watch out for these messages and keep an eye on our website at <u>bachport.uk</u>. Your support can make the difference.

The Bachport team of volunteers have continued to work over the summer to prepare the strongest possible case.

OXAGE

Under the banner of OXAGE (Oxfordshire Against Gravel Extraction), Bachport worked with all of the other 'anti-gravel' groups across Oxfordshire and CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) to prepare a report for the Inspector of the OCC Minerals and Waste Local Plan (the Plan), which was recently out for consultation. The OXAGE report makes a strong case that the Plan is not legally compliant, is unsound, and vastly overstates the need for gravel within Oxfordshire. The report is available to read on bachport.uk

There is a graph on the website which shows the 30+ year trends for various UK outputs, it was prepared by Bachport and is included in the report. What it shows is both counter-intuitive and contrary to what we are always told (i.e. to support growth we need to dig up more sand and gravel).

The facts show that despite large increases in population (+14%), construction output (+38%) and real gross domestic product (+108%), land-won sand and gravel output has almost halved (–44%). Growth is using much LESS sand and gravel. The same trends are true for Oxfordshire. The drivers for this decline are detailed in the report and include a massive growth in the availability of recycled aggregate. The report shows that Oxfordshire already has more than enough permitted gravel reserves to support growth and does not need any new gravel pits. John Howell MP, OCC, SODC and Parish councillors have all supported our report.

Archaeology

An early success of Bachport was to get a significant section of the proposed site designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) of national importance, which means this area of the site cannot be dug. Two further applications have been made. The first is to consolidate the existing SAM into a more regular shape and incorporate some additional adjacent archaeological features. This would increase the area of the SAM from c.11 to c.14 hectares (c. +25%). It is still being considered and we are quite hopeful. The second was a new application to protect other archaeological features on the site but unfortunately was rejected. We are considering whether to appeal this decision.

Road Route

A consultation on the proposed route was expected in the summer; however, the latest from OCC is that the report on the new road is 'being finalised' and will be considered by councillors in 'the next couple of months' and, if all goes well, the route will go to public consultation 'before Christmas'.

Of the four routes originally considered for crossing the river two were ruled out because of strong archaeological objections and so only two routes have been taken forward to explore in more detail. A funding application for a further road (the Clifton Hampden bypass) north of the A415 has been made to Central Government and will also be decided before Christmas.

Could the first step towards traffic relief be a welcome Christmas present this year?

Other Proposed Sites

Grundon have announced their intention to make a planning application in early 2016 to extract sand and gravel from New Barn Farm near Cholsey. They are currently engaging in community consultation.

If you have any questions or suggestions for us please email bachport@btinternet.com.

Other News & Events

CHARITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT - DORCHESTER ABBEY 9TH DECEMBER 6.30

For the first time, local children's charity Footsteps Foundation are holding a wonderful Christmas concert in Dorchester Abbey so please do put the date of December the 9th in your diary. The event will feature an eclectic program, with traditional carols by the wonderful Headington Singers spiced up with a Jazz trio singing some classics, a Soprano solo, a special song with Footsteps children and even a Ukulele band! The candle-lit concert will be free of charge, with refreshments in the interval. Children are welcome and it is from 6.30-8.30pm.

EARTH TRUST



Introduction to Hedgelaying Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th December, 9.30am-4pm

A very practical, hands on two days laying a Midland style hedge with expert Clive Leeke. Learn about this traditional skill on the job here on the Earth Trust's nature reserve in Little Wittenham. All specialist tools and equipment provided. £75; booking essential: 01865 407792 or <a href="mailto:adminimement-admin

Winter Wetland Birds

Sunday 6th December, 9.30am-11am

Local expert Ben Carpenter will take you on guided walk around beautiful Thrupp Lake, near Abingdon (OX14 3NG), where you'll find out all about the overwintering birds and their habitats. £5 adult, £2 child, FREE for Earth Trust Friends; booking essential: 01865 407792 or <a href="mailto:addition-near-th-near

Natural Christmas

Sunday 6th December, 11am-3pm

Drop in to the Earth Trust Centre and make your own unique Christmas decorations and gifts using natural and recycled materials, plus visit Father Christmas! Price by activity, see website for details: www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson.

Heritage Skills Taster Session: Hedgelaying

Sunday 13th December, 10am-4pm

Discover the basics of hedgelaying in an informal taster session, working alongside the regular Earth Trust Sunday volunteers. Free but please book: 01865 409413 or volunteering@earthtrust.org.uk. If you enjoy this free session, look out for more of our weekend introductory courses in the new year.

LOGS FOR LABOUR IS ON AGAIN!

Would you like free firewood, or do you have a woodland that needs managing? The Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment's "Logs for Labour" programme aims to promote sustainable use of firewood by running events where volunteers help to manage woodlands in return for logs. The events run most weekends in the winter, are about 3 hours long, and could involve coppicing hazel, thinning trees or piling up brash. All you need are sturdy gloves, shoes and a saw (only hand tools are allowed for insurance reasons)... or let us know if your woodland needs the help of volunteers.

Information about forthcoming events is at www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk/logs-for-labouror 'like' www.facebook.com/oxonwood. Riki Therivel, 01865 243488.

CORNERSTONE, DIDCOT

01235 515144 www.cornerstone-arts.org

Christmas at Cornerstone always means a wonderful show for families and, this year, we are thrilled to present **The Snow Dragon**, a magical and enchanting fairy tale from Tall Stories, the team who brought you The Gruffalo and Room on a Broom. Performances start on Saturday 19 and run until Thursday 24 December. It's the perfect run-up to the Christmas festivities for everyone from 3 to 103!



Brit-Award winning vocalists **Blake** are bringing their long-awaited debut Christmas show '**Christmas Classics**' to Cornerstone on Thursday 10 December. This two hour stage spectacular will feature festive songs in beautiful trio harmony, video projections and the group's famous, fast-paced comedy banter.

Come along to our **Felt Making: Christmas Decorations** special family workshop on Saturday 5 December. Great fun for families, you'll learn how to make felt from scratch and then design your own decoration to take home and hang on the Christmas tree. For ages from 5 and up.

Stephen K Amos: The Laughter Master is back on tour and returns to Didcot with his new show, fresh from sell-out tours of Australia and New Zealand. Catch him here at Cornerstone on Saturday 5 December.

Stringfever wowed audiences at Cornerstone last year and we're delighted that they're returning on Sunday 6 December. The world's first genetically modified string quartet combine exceptional musical skill with a real talent for involving and engaging audiences. Expect a musical and visual extravaganza, offering an evening's entertainment like you've never seen before!

Cornerstone will close its doors for Christmas on Thursday 24 December, re-opening on Tuesday 5 January 2016.

The New Year means the launch of the Spring season and, just to whet your appetite with a teaser or two...we'll welcome ten top folk musicians, including Eliza Carthy, in **Songs of Separation** on Friday 22 January. If you love folk music you'll kick yourself if you miss this. The undisputed masters of off-the-cuff comedy, **The Noise Next Door**, take audience suggestions and transform them into fantastically funny scenes and songs in the blink of an eye. Catch their show **Noise In The Hood**, on Saturday 23 January. **Funky Monkey and the Juicy Fruits**, on Sunday 31 January, is one of our **Top Fun Sunday**performances, with lots of fun on offer for families and children. **Robert Strange: Collecting Art** will open in the Cornerstone gallery on Tuesday 12 January.

The team at Cornerstone wishes you a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful and Happy New Year.

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED (RDA) - ABINGDON GROUP

WWW.RDA-ABINGDON.ORG.UK

RDA Abingdon is based at Southmoor. Our volunteers help children and adults with physical and /or learning difficulties to ride for therapy, achievement and fun. We are keen to recruit volunteers to help at one of our many sessions which take place across the week, during the day and in the evenings. If you would like to know more please call Ann on 07801379814 or email annps.barlow@googlemail.com

CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE RAILWAY INN - PAULINE DAVIDSON

I would like to invite senior citizens of Culham, aged 65+, to The Railway Inn on **Saturday 12th December 2015** for a Christmas Party, from **2 to 6 pm**. This offer is limited to 30 people who must be Culham residents. It will include:

- Free 4 Course Turkey Meal and refreshments.
- Entertainment, Bingo and Raffle

If you want to come, please fill in and return the tear-off reply slip below. Please note that we need to know if you have any special requirements, such as:-

do you need to be picked up? will you be in a wheelchair? are you on a special diet?

THE MOUTHPIECE

Please note that any opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editors. We accept information from advertisers in good faith and cannot be responsible for errors therein.

Contributions to the February issue of The Mouthpiece by January 15th please, to:

generalmouthpiece@gmail.com

or

John Mason,

20 High Street, Culham,

Tel 01235 527440

Anne Churchill Stone,

18 High Street, Culham,

Tel 01235 533011

If you would like to try editing an issue of The Mouthpiece, please let us know – it is not that difficult.

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Abingdon Ladies Netball Club' @ info@alnc.co.uk



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